

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 03309 241017Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
-----241022 025392 /17

O 241008Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5859  
USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 03309

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR PGOV US WB UK FR UR  
SUBJECT: ATTEMPTED SUICIDE BY HESS

REFS: (A) STATE 41037; (B) BONN 3292; (C) USBER 551

1. WE HAVE INFORMED BRITISH AND FRENCH EMBASSIES OF THE DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS IN REF (A). WE HAVE ADDED THAT THOSE INSTRUCTIONS WERE SENT BEFORE RECEIPT OF THE REPORT OF YESTERDAY EVENING'S TRIPARTITE MEETING (REF B), AND THAT OUR INSTRUCTIONS THEREFORE DO NOT TREAT THE QUESTION OF WHETHER A PRESS STATEMENT OR OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION BY THE WESTERN ALLIES WITHOUT SOVIET ASSENT WOULD VIOLATE PRISON REGULATIONS.

2. BOTH EMBASSIES ARE NOW ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS BY PHONE. THE BRITISH HAVE SO FAR HEARD NOTHING FROM LONDON BUT WILL MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ARE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN A POSITION IS REACHED. THE FRENCH EMBASSY HERE HAD GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO THE FRENCH MISSION BERLIN TO ADHERE TO THE LINE AGREED TRIPARTITELY YESTERDAY. IN THE LIGHT OF THE US INSTRUCTIONS, THE  
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FRENCH ARE NOW SEEKING GUIDANCE FROM PARIS.

3. WE HAVE TOLD BOTH EMBASSIES THAT, IN OUR VIEW, MUCH DEPENDS ON REGULATIONS AND OTHER UNDERSTANDINGS WITH THE SOVIETS, CONCERNING WHICH AS NOTED IN REF (B) OUR KNOWLEDGE IS INADEQUATE. IT MAY BE PREFERABLE, THEREFORE, FOR THE PRESS LINE TO BE COORDINATED IN

BERLIN RATHER THAN IN BONN.

4. WE STILL HAVE DOUBTS THAT THE FRENCH WILL AGREE TO A PRESS LINE WHICH WOULD CONFIRM THE SUICIDE ATTEMPT, WHATEVER THE STATE OF PRISON REGULATIONS. IN SUCH CASE WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS MISTAKE FOR THE CHAIRMAN (US) SPOKESMAN TO CONFIRM IT ON HIS OWN, THUS IRRITATING NOT ONLY THE SOVIETS BUT ALSO THE FRENCH.

5. SHOULD MISSIONS REACH AGREEMENT TO CONFIRM THE SUICIDE ATTEMPT, WE RECOMMEND THAT THEY ALSO PREPARE A PRESS LINE ON INEVITABLE FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS, SUCH AS HOW THE BEST GUARDED PRISONER IN THE WORLD COULD MANAGE TO TAKE SUCH ACTION.

6. ADDENDUM: AFTER THE ABOVE WAS TYPED, BOISSIEU INFORMED US THAT HE HAD SPOKEN WITH PARIS AND THE ANSWER WAS "NO" TO ALLIED CONFIRMATION OF THE ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.  
STOESSEL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POW, INSTRUCTIONS, WAR CRIMES, PRISONERS WELFARE, THE PRESS, CONTINGENCY PLANNING, BERLIN QUADRIpartite MATTERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 24-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977BONN03309  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770064-0091  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 41037, 77 BONN 3292, 77 USBERLIN 551  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3245551  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ATTEMPTED SUICIDE BY HESS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, US, WB, UK, FR, UR, (HESS, RUDOLF)  
**To:** STATE USBERLIN  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/a675c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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